

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 H-02 /062 W

----- 076520

R 071440Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 060

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, NI

SUBJECT: AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

REF: LAGOS 9941 AND PREVIOUS, STATE 158498

AND PREVIOUS

1. AMBASSADOR RAISED AIIC ISSUE JULY 5 WITH FINANCE COMMISSIONER SHAGARI. SHAGARI SAID HE SHARED AMBASSADOR'S CONCERN THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN BY FMG THAT WOULD BE PORTRAYED ABROAD AND PARTICULARLY IN US AS CONFISCATORY, ARBITRARY OR DISCRIMINATORY. "YOU KNOW THAT IS NOT NIGERIAN POLICY." SHAGARI PROMISED THAT QUESTION WOULD RECEIVE FMG'S MOST CAREFUL HIGH LEVEL SCRUTINY BEFORE FINAL DECISION MADE. MATTER WAS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW AT LOWER LEVELS. NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN BY FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRIOR TO STUDY BY THREE RELEVANT MINISTRIES: TRADE, WHICH HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY AND WAS CURRENTLY SEIZED WITH THE DOSSIER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND HIS OWN MINISTRY OF FINANCE. THE FILE HAS NOT YET REACHED HIS DESK, AND COULD NOT MOVE TO THE FEC WITHOUT HIS CONCURRENCE.

2. WE ARE PUZZLED BY OBE'S "OFF-RECORD" REMARK TO MULCAHY THAT USG MAY BE PRESSING TOO HARD AND MAY HAVE ALREADY GENERATED SOME HOSTILITY IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPEAT NO SUCH EVIDENCE HERE. AT TIME OF OUR REPRESENTATIONS

TO AMBASSADOR IYALLA AND IN FOLLOW-UP INQUIRIES AT WORKING LEVELS MEA, REACTION WAS UNDERSTANDABLY NON-COMMITTAL BUT FULLY CORDIAL. FYI WE SUSPECT FACT THAT AIIC IS ALONE AMONG FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES IN HOLDING OUT AGAINST FMG TERMS AND HAS SOUGHT DIPLOMATIC/POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR POSITION THAT FMG ALMOST CERTAINLY REGARDS AS INTRANSIGENT IS FAR MORE APT TO CREATE HOSTILITY THAN EMBASSY'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN. IN LIGHT HOWEVER OF MULCAHY REPRESENTATIONS TO OBE AND AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH SHAGARI, IT SEEMS TO US WE COULD APPROPRIATELY SUSPEND USG ROLE NOW AND ENCOURAGE AIIC TO UNDERTAKE RESUMPTION OF DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH FMG. END FYI

3. AT DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION, AF MAY WISH INFORM AIIC AND SENATOR BUCKLEY OF SUBSTANCE PARAGRAPH 1.
EASUM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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